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No funding, says Canada

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Canada reiterated that it had not provided any funding to the opposition front, Acting High Commissioner Otch Von Finkenstein said today.

"It is not the norm to interfere in any national election and it was on our own initiative to clarify this to Wisma Putra," he added.

He said this to reporters after participating in the Terry Fox Run at Taman Tasik Perdana. He was responding to an allegation by the Government that foreign embassies were funding the Opposition in a bid to topple Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Earlier this week, Umno Youth international affairs bureau chairman Azim Mohd Zabidi was quoted in an Utusan Melayu report, that he had proof of foreign missions supporting the various Opposition parties. The American, British, Canadian and Australian missions were alleged to have provided both financial and moral support to these parties.

Von Fickenstein however said: "It is part of a diplomat's job to attend political meetings of all colours as we do in any country. After all, a diplomat needs to be well-informed and to talk to all members of society," he said.

He added that in comparison Malaysian diplomats were perfectly free to talk to anybody in Canada for the entire duration of the country's election.

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